Democratic Socialists of America
National Political Committee
February 1-2, 2020
Austin, TX

Present

Staff: Maria S, Heidi C, Kristina S, Glenn R
Chair: Natalie M

Saturday, February 1
Called to order: 10:18AM

Adopt Agenda, Standing Rules, & Consent Agenda

Discussion of standing rules. Natalie moves to adopt rules. Seconded.
  ● Rules carry unanimously

Adopting the agenda

  ● Natalie moves we adopt the agenda, with an amendment: swap section of Bernie campaign committee report with Growth & Development committee report
  ● Sauce proposes to move strategy discussion to 10-12; move Ana’s presentation; move GDC to today
  ● Natalie moves to adopt the agenda. Seconded.
  ● Austin moves to amend: Add antifascist and direct action working group resolution to section for new NPC resolutions. Seconded.
    ○ Amendment carries unanimously
  ● Natalie moves to amend: Swap GDC with Bernie committee report. Seconded.
    ○ Amendment carries unanimously
  ● Natalie moves to approve amended agenda.
    ○ Unanimously approved

Adopting consent agenda

  ● Resolution on the Green New Deal Campaign Planet to Win Reading Collaboration with Pol Ed Committee
  ● Resolution on the Green New Deal Collaboration for Earth Day Strikes
  ● Resolution on The National Director’s Recommendation on Updating Internal Communication Policies
  ● Resolution on The National Director’s Recommendation on Maximizing Primary Season for Recruitment
• Sean moves to adopt consent agenda.
  ■ Carries unanimously

**Strategy Discussion - It's Their Party by Paul Heideman in Jacobin**
*Discussion of DSA’s strategy as it relates to the Democratic Party.*

**Budget**
*Discussion of projected budget deficit. DSA did not see a big membership bump in 2019, we are contracting, we need to get creative and closely watch spending. Budget and Finance recommends passing a provisional six-month budget and reevaluating after we can see the impact of the Growth and Development Committee’s recruitment and retention work.*

**Staff Reports**
*Discussion of Organizing Staff plan for the primaries, chapter survey, new staff, training strategy, challenges communicating with chapters. Discussion of collaborating across national bodies.*

**YDSA**
*Discussion of YDSA growth, merging national committees to streamline work, challenges with leadership development.*

**GDC Report**
*Discussion of chapter survey, draft recruitment plan, orienting our work around 100,000 plan.*

Natalie moves to provisionally adopt the draft plan, with the caveat that it is a draft of a living document.
  • *Motion carries unanimously*

**GND Report Discussion**
*Discussion of Green New Deal Campaign Committee, how to link together local work into a larger national campaign, potential to hire a staffer given budget.*

Natalie moves to refer the staffing question to the Steering Committee. Seconded.
  • *Motion carries unanimously*

**Personnel**
Natalie moves to enter executive session for personnel discussion. Seconded.
  • *Motion carries*
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Entered executive session: 6:00PM
Meeting recessed: 6:45PM

Sunday, February 2
Meeting called to order: 10:15AM

Austin moves to fix budget discussion to time certain
  ● *Motion fails*

Dave moves to enter an executive session for Code of Conduct and Grievance discussion
  ● *Motion carries*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Begin: 10:25AM
End: 3:25PM

Natalie moves to amend the remainder of the day’s agenda to:
  ● 3:15-3:50 Vote on reports from executive session, including:
    ○ Lawrence Report
    ○ Personnel Report
    ○ NHGO Report
  ● 3:50-5:30 Bernie Strategy Discussion & Committee Report
  ● 5:30-6:00 International Committee Restructuring Proposal
  Seconded.

  ● Jenbo moves to amend the motion to add the Resolution on Steering Committee Reporting to after the vote on reports from the executive sesion. Seconded.
    ○ Motion to call the question
      ■ *Motion carries*
    ○ Motion to amend carries
      ■ Roll call:
      YES: Jenbo, Erika, Jen M, Austin, Tawny, Sauce, Blanca, Kristian
      NO: Sean, Dave, Amelia/Kristen, Natalie, Hannah, Megan, Marianela
      ABSTAIN: Maikiko

  ● Motion to amend the agenda to divide the Bernie discussion to discuss the budget from 4:30 to 5:30. Seconded.
    ○ Motion to call the question
      ■ *Motion carries*
Motion to amend fails

Motion to call the question on motion to amend the agenda
  - Motion carries

Main motion, amended, back on the floor:

Motion by Natalie Midiri to amend the remainder of the day’s agenda to:

3:15-3:50 Vote on reports from executive session, including:
  - Lawrence Report
  - Personnel Report
  - NHGO Report

Resolution on SC Reporting

3:50-5:30 Bernie Strategy Discussion & Committee Report

5:30-6:00 International Committee Restructuring Proposal

  - Motion carries

Voting on Business from Executive Session

Motion to adopt the report on the Lawrence investigation. Seconded.

  - Motion to call the question
    - Motion carries
  - Motion to adopt carries

Motion that DSA adopt the recommendations of the Lawrence HGOs. Seconded.

  - Motion to call the question
    - Motion carries
  - Motion to adopt carries

Maikiko moves to amend the report of the Personnel Committee. Seconded.

  - Amelia and Kristen move to amend the report of the Personnel Committee as follows:
    Below the second bullet point, add “To immediately hire a full time YDSA staffer to support the growth of YDSA throughout the Democratic primary season.”
    Seconded.
  - Tawny moves to substitute the amendment with the following:
    To plan to hire a full time YDSA staffer to support the growth of YDSA pending budget review in April 2020, and to hire an intern to help with general YDSA work immediately. Seconded.
    - Motion carries

Natalie moves to adopt the report from the NHGO. Seconded.

  - Motion to call the question
    - Motion carries
  - Motion to adopt carries
Resolution on SC Reporting

Jenbo moves to adopt the resolution on a SC Reporting Requirement to the NPC. Seconded.

- Dave moves to amend:
  ...Any decision of the Steering Committee may be appealed by any NPC member and overturned by a simple majority...
    - Motion to call the question
      - Motion carries
    - Motion to amend carries
  
- Maikiko moves to amend:
  ...Any decision of the Steering Committee may be appealed by any three NPC members and overturned by a simple two-thirds majority of votes cast of the NPC...
    - Motion to amend carries

- Motion to adopt carries

DSA for Bernie Strategy Discussion and Committee Report

Discussion of many different scenarios and potential outcomes of both primary and general election.

Discussion of Bernie Strategy Pamphlet

- Discussion of language about an independent political party
- Motion to adopt the spirit of the Bernie Strategy Pamphlet, pending a final document in a week to 10 days which includes discussed edits
  - Motion carries

Kristian moves to adjourn. Seconded
- Motion fails

Returning to agenda: Voting on DNC section of DSA for Bernie report

- Motion to approve proposal 1 on p. 4 of report preparing a plan for the DNC
  - Motion carries
- Motion to approve Proposal 2 on Volunteer to Track Delegates
  - Motion carries
- Motion to approve Proposal 3 on Michael G’s staff time
  - Natalie moves to refer to Steering and staff, seconded
    - Motion to refer carries

International Committee Restructure Resolution

Discussion of IC restructure, pipeline into leadership, coordination between IC and NPC, creates more transparency and accountability, divies labor.
Motion to adopt the Resolution to Restructure the International Committee

- Motion to amend with Blanca and Austin’s language
  - Motion to amend carries

- Motion to adopt carries unanimously

Jen moves to adjourn. Seconded.
- Motion carries

Meeting adjourned: 6:48PM